



POPULATION

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INTRODUCTION

Use of Population Data in Vital Event Surveillance

Simple counts of information collected on vital certificates are helpful in planning provision of health services, because they document the number of people who experience health events in a particular geographic area.

When questions concerning *comparisons* between groups arise, however, simple counts often are misleading, because they do not account for differences in the composition of the groups. For example, more people die in towns where the majority of the inhabitants are elderly than in towns with a majority of young adults, simply because older people die more often than younger people do. Does this mean, however, that the town with the older population has an abnormally high occurrence of death? To answer questions concerning the magnitude of a vital event and to enhance our ability to compare groups with each other, statisticians calculate rates.

Rates provide a way to compare the number of events that occurred with the number of people in the group for which that event could have occurred. They are calculated by dividing the number of events by the number of people in the group, then multiplying the quotient by some number (such as 1,000 or 100,000) to standardize the calculation so it can be compared easily with rates for other groups. In many instances, census population data are used to estimate of the number of people in the group for which the event could have occurred.

Louisiana population figures provide a frame of reference for examining the vital events that occur within the resident population within a particular year. State population figures are used to calculate the overall rates at which births and deaths occur throughout the state.

Source of Data: Population Estimates

For the years that fall between the ten-year census counts, intercensal population estimates are calculated by the United States Census Bureau and the Research Division, College of Administration and Business of the Louisiana Tech University. These estimates of yearly populations are based on determinations of the number of births, deaths, and migrations into and out of the state on an annual basis.

Intercensal population estimates provided by the United States Bureau of the Census were used to calculate rates in the state summary portion of this report. Intercensal population estimates provided by the Research Division, College of Administration and Business of the Louisiana Tech University were used to calculate rates presented in the Parish and Region tables.

POPULATION ESTIMATES

- Population estimates for 1998 place the number of Louisiana residents at 4,368,967.
- Between 1945 and the mid 1980s, the total population in Louisiana saw a steady increase. In the late 1980s, the state experienced a net population loss, primarily because of migration out of the state. Since that time, population levels have risen to their early 1980s level. Historical estimates of the total Louisiana population are shown in Table P1.

Table P1: Population Counts Louisiana, 1945-1998					
Year	Population	Year	Population	Year	Population
1945	2,429,000	1963	3,377,000	1981	4,283,303
1946	2,556,000	1964	3,446,000	1982	4,352,608
1947	2,579,000	1965	3,496,000	1983	4,395,316
1948	2,596,000	1966	3,550,000	1984	4,400,477
1949	2,634,000	1967	3,581,000	1985	4,408,118
1950	2,697,000	1968	3,603,000	1986	4,406,919
1951	2,769,000	1969	3,619,000	1987	4,344,148
1952	2,842,000	1970	3,644,637	1988	4,288,863
1953	2,866,000	1971	3,710,487	1989	4,252,894
1954	2,883,000	1972	3,761,646	1990	4,217,362
1955	2,946,000	1973	3,788,375	1991	4,241,224
1956	3,032,000	1974	3,820,109	1992	4,273,734
1957	3,115,000	1975	3,886,104	1993	4,290,100
1958	3,155,000	1976	3,950,605	1994	4,314,630
1959	3,208,000	1977	4,014,459	1995	4,338,072
1960	3,260,000	1978	4,068,579	1996	4,350,759
1961	3,287,000	1979	4,137,665	1997	4,351,769
1962	3,345,000	1980	4,205,900	1998	4,368,967

Source: United States Census Bureau

- Estimates divided by sex, race, and age describe the composition of Louisiana's population. These estimates are used to calculate rates that allow for comparisons of vital events among population subgroups (Table P2).

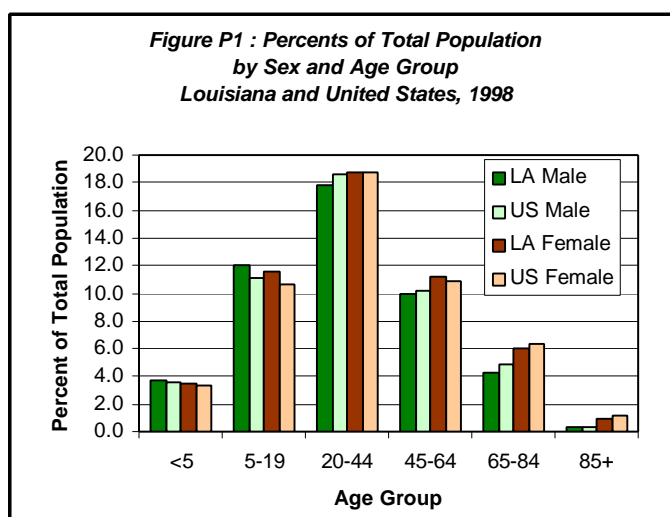
Table P2: Population Counts by Sex, Race, and Age Groups 0-49 Louisiana, 1998											
Sex	Race	Age Group									
		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Male	White	93,022	95,910	100,125	111,376	99,834	94,173	97,883	114,910	118,739	103,568
	Black	62,904	66,495	66,448	71,696	56,547	44,196	42,774	46,286	47,025	38,839
	Other	3,565	3,236	3,398	3,670	3,204	2,915	2,770	3,007	2,823	2,381
	Total	159,491	165,641	169,971	186,742	159,585	141,284	143,427	164,203	168,587	144,788
Female	White	88,855	91,782	95,265	106,866	97,921	98,719	99,169	115,036	118,177	105,089
	Black	61,700	64,514	65,342	73,318	63,129	50,627	50,301	54,767	55,948	48,580
	Other	3,303	2,969	3,162	3,674	3,078	3,114	2,733	2,979	3,010	2,761
	Total	153,858	159,265	163,769	183,858	164,128	152,460	152,203	172,782	177,135	156,430

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1998 Population Estimates

<i>(cont.) Table P2: Population Counts by Sex, Race, and Age Groups 50-85+ Louisiana, 1998</i>										
Sex	Race	Age Group								Total
		50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	
Male	White	88,939	72,246	61,080	49,824	44,022	32,389	18,028	11,357	1,407,425
	Black	28,117	21,618	17,971	15,541	12,013	8,783	4,945	4,213	656,411
	Other	1,793	1,325	983	651	488	325	200	186	36,920
	Total	118,849	95,189	80,034	66,016	56,523	41,497	23,173	15,756	2,100,756
Female	White	92,837	77,150	66,219	60,218	56,884	47,850	32,056	29,762	1,479,855
	Black	36,329	29,384	25,066	21,647	17,192	13,906	9,049	9,993	750,792
	Other	2,031	1,398	1,122	822	586	381	218	223	37,564
	Total	131,197	107,392	92,407	82,687	74,662	62,137	41,323	39,978	2,268,211

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1998 Population Estimates

- Subgroup estimates expressed as percent of total population show **the population compositions for the state and the nation are very similar in the distribution of sex and age** (Figure P1, Table P3).
- For both the state and the nation, the largest age group is 20-44 years, and the smallest age group is 85+ years. The United States' population is, as a whole, slightly older than Louisiana's population (Figure P1, Table P3).

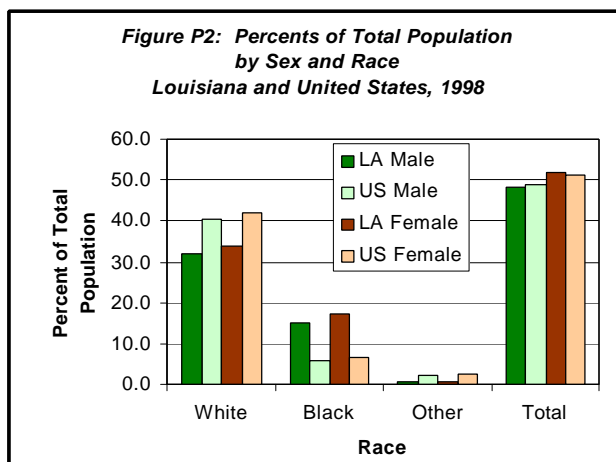


Source: United States Census Bureau, 1998 Population Estimates

Table P3: Percent of Total Population by Sex and Age Group Louisiana and United States, 1998								
Location	Sex	Age Group						All Ages
		<5	5-19	20-44	45-64	65-84	85+	
LA	Male	3.7	12.0	17.8	10.0	4.3	0.4	48.1
	Female	3.5	11.6	18.7	11.2	6.0	0.9	51.9
	Both	7.2	23.6	36.5	21.2	10.3	1.3	100.0
US	Male	3.6	11.1	18.6	10.2	4.8	0.4	48.9
	Female	3.4	10.6	18.7	10.9	6.4	1.1	51.1
	Both	7.0	21.7	37.4	21.2	11.2	1.5	100.0

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1998 Population Estimates

- In Louisiana, blacks comprise 32% of the population. In the United States, blacks comprise less than 13% of the population (Figure P2, Table P4).



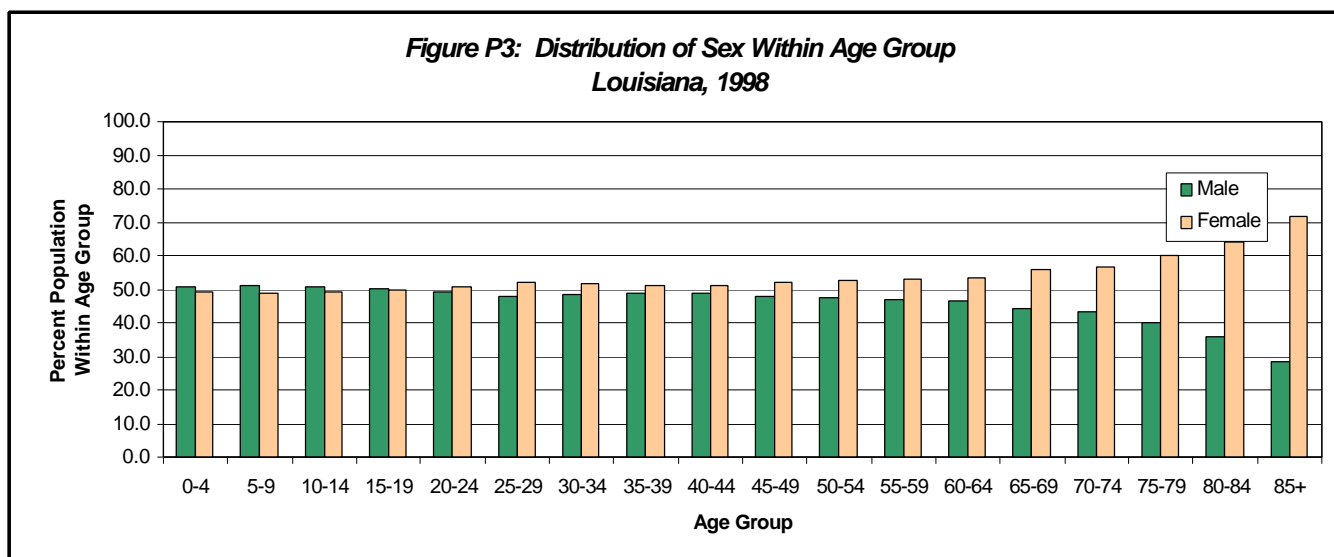
Source: United States Census Bureau, 1998 Population Estimates

Table P4: Percent of Total Population by Race and Sex Louisiana and United States, 1998

Location	Sex	Race			
		White	Black	Other	Total
LA	Male	32.2	15.0	0.8	48.1
	Female	33.9	17.2	0.9	51.9
	Both	66.1	32.2	1.7	100.0
US	Male	40.5	6.0	2.3	48.9
	Female	42.0	6.7	2.5	51.1
	Both	82.5	12.7	4.8	100.0

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1998 Population Estimates

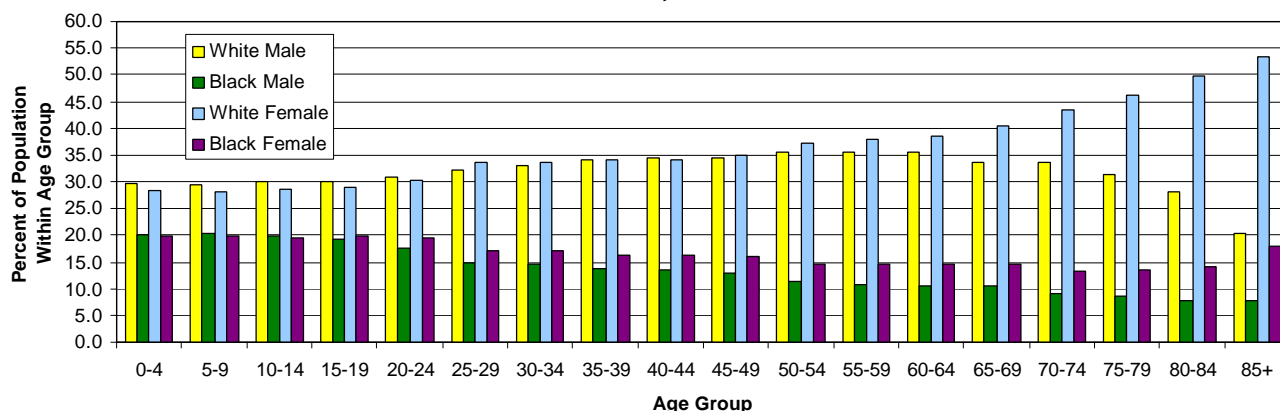
- As Louisiana's population ages, the proportion of women to men increases. In age groups less than 44 years of age, the percentages of men and women are nearly equal. In age groups older than 45 years, women increasingly outnumber men. In the 85+ age group, there are almost three times as many women as men (Figure P3, Table P5).



Source: United States Census Bureau, 1998 Population Estimates

- **Within individual age groups, specific race and sex distributions become more disparate as age increases.** In age groups less than 19 years old, similar distributions of race and sex are seen, but among older age groups, whites increasingly outnumber blacks, and females outnumber males. In the 85+ age group, for example, white females outnumber black males by more than seven to one (Figure P4, Table P5).

**Figure P4: Distribution of Race and Sex Within Age Group
Louisiana, 1998**



Source: United States Census Bureau, 1998 Population Estimates

**Table P5: Percent of Sex and Race Within Age Groups 0-49
Louisiana, 1998**

Sex	Race	Age Group									
		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Male	White	29.7	29.5	30.0	30.1	30.8	32.1	33.1	34.1	34.3	34.4
	Black	20.1	20.5	19.9	19.3	17.5	15.0	14.5	13.7	13.6	12.9
	Other	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
	Total	50.9	51.0	50.9	50.4	49.3	48.1	48.5	48.7	48.8	48.1
Female	White	28.4	28.2	28.5	28.8	30.2	33.6	33.5	34.1	34.2	34.9
	Black	19.7	19.9	19.6	19.8	19.5	17.2	17.0	16.3	16.2	16.1
	Other	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
	Total	49.1	49.0	49.1	49.6	50.7	51.9	51.5	51.3	51.2	51.9

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1998 Population Estimates

**(cont.) Table P5: Percent of Sex and Race Within Age Groups 50-85+
Louisiana, 1998**

Sex	Race	Age Group								
		50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	Total
Male	White	35.6	35.6	35.4	33.5	33.6	31.3	28.0	20.4	32.2
	Black	11.2	10.6	10.4	10.5	9.2	8.5	7.7	7.6	15.0
	Other	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8
	Total	47.5	46.9	46.4	44.4	43.1	40.0	35.9	28.3	48.1
Female	White	37.1	38.0	38.4	40.5	43.4	46.2	49.7	53.4	33.9
	Black	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.6	13.1	13.4	14.0	17.9	17.2
	Other	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.9
	Total	52.5	53.1	53.6	55.6	56.9	60.0	64.1	71.7	51.9

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1998 Population Estimates

Population estimates for each of Louisiana's 64 parishes show the distribution of the total population in the state. Parish-level population estimates are given in Table P6.

Table P6: Population Counts by Parish Louisiana, 1998			
Parish	1998 Estimate	Parish	1998 Estimate
Acadia	58,249	Madison	13,058
Allen	24,242	Morehouse	31,438
Ascension	71,825	Natchitoches	37,744
Assumption	23,006	Orleans	468,124
Avoyelles	41,860	Ouachita	147,657
Beauregard	31,164	Plaquemines	26,407
Bienville	15,657	Pointe Coupee	23,316
Bossier	94,393	Rapides	126,901
Caddo	241,587	Red River	9,877
Calcasieu	181,799	Richland	20,873
Caldwell	10,666	Sabine	23,815
Cameron	9,040	St. Bernard	67,264
Catahoula	10,728	St. Charles	48,015
Claiborne	17,136	St. Helena	9,576
Concordia	21,310	St. James	21,289
DeSoto	24,735	St. John	42,242
East Baton Rouge	396,556	St. Landry	82,392
East Carroll	8,770	St. Martin	47,439
East Feliciana	20,837	St. Mary	57,322
Evangeline	34,373	St. Tammany	183,727
Franklin	21,935	Tangipahoa	95,510
Grant	18,755	Tensas	6,221
Iberia	72,982	Terrebonne	103,964
Iberville	30,660	Union	22,020
Jackson	15,601	Vermilion	51,244
Jefferson	453,165	Vernon	51,894
Jefferson Davis	31,464	Washington	44,341
Lafayette	184,521	Webster	42,658
Lafourche	88,269	West Baton Rouge	20,638
LaSalle	14,111	West Carroll	12,209
Lincoln	41,635	West Feliciana	13,480
Livingston	87,311	Winn	17,970

Source: LA Tech University